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Student in Spy Case Claims Mistreatment

FBI Accused of Reneging on Promises After Assistance in Trapping Zakharov

J By Margot Hornblower
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NEW YORK, March 30—The Guyanese computer student who worked with the FBI to trap Genadi Zakharov, a Soviet-U.N. employee, who was trying to turn the student into a Soviet spy, surfaced publicly today, complaining that he had been underpaid and mistreated by federal agents.

"I was promised rewards, lots of money, a good resume, medals, good job recommendations, but those things never materialized," said Leakh Bhoge, now unemployed and living in a basement apartment in the Brooklyn slum of East New York.

Zakharov's arrest on a subway platform in Queens, just after Bhoge had handed him an envelope containing three classified documents, ignited a superpower crisis that led to the arrest in Moscow of U.S. journalist Nicholas Daniloff and later a swap of Zakharov for Daniloff.

The incident led to the Reykjavik summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Bhoge's description of the 3½-year operation showed how elaborately the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Soviet official orchestrated their respective efforts—the FBI to catch a spy, the Soviet to acquire a new agent and sensitive technical information.

Bhoge, 30, told a news conference at Queens College that he had fantasized about becoming a James Bond-type spy but had discovered that the job was far from glamorous. Bond "had a very elaborate lifestyle," he said wistfully. "... But I lived in minimal conditions. I worked in a factory when I had a [bachelors'] degree. I lived in a basement and had to take care of my bills."

FBI spokesman Joseph Valiquette declined comment, saying, "It is not FBI policy to reveal the identity of informants or double agents." The

government earlier had identified Bhoge as a Guyanese graduate student at Queens College but refused to give his name.

Bhoge's story, as told at the news conference and to a writer for New York magazine, which published a long account of the espionage episode today, confirmed that the FBI went to some lengths last August to catch Zakharov in an act of espionage shortly before he was to return to the Soviet Union.

This effort came after the FBI had spent 3½ years watching Zakharov develop Bhoge as a potential Soviet agent. During that time, the bureau had to cajole Bhoge to stick with its program and paid him more money than Zakharov did to continue working as a double agent, by his account.

Zakharov, a physicist working at the U.N. without diplomatic immunity, was arrested Aug. 22.

A week later, Soviet KGB agents seized Daniloff, the U.S. News and World Report correspondent in Moscow, after he received an envelope from a Soviet acquaintance. The Soviets charged Daniloff with espionage and, after a tense confrontation, Reagan agreed to release Zakharov Sept. 12, and the Soviets agreed to release Daniloff the same day.

Bhoge, one of eight children of a Guyanese farm worker who emigrated to Brooklyn in 1977, said he decided to tell his story because he felt "bitter" about his treatment. Queens University officials put him in touch with an attorney who introduced him to a New York magazine reporter.

In the news conference, Bhoge said he was paid \$20,000 by the FBI over 3½ years, and \$10,000 by Zakharov, which he gave to the FBI. After reading of the lucrative book and lecture deals negotiated by Daniloff, he said he asked the FBI for more money and was promised "\$100,000 in installments" by Dan Sayner, one of his FBI handlers. Sayner reneged on the alleged agreement, Bhoge said, and, in October, after intervention of Rep. Gary L. Ackerman (D-N.Y.), offered him a final payment of \$10,000, which Bhoge said he refused.

Bhoge was introduced to Zakharov, posing as a Soviet professor needing research help, by a fellow student in 1983. Zakharov hired Bhoge to photocopy articles for the "Moscow Institute," to pick up public documents and to deliver a package.

A week after their first meeting, Bhoge, on another student's advice, contacted the FBI. He was reluctant to work for either side, he said, but was persuaded to do so for the money and out of patriotism.

In January 1985, when Bhoge completed his computer studies, Zakharov asked him to look for a job in robotics or artificial intelligence. But at the FBI's request, he said, he took a \$250-a-week job as a machinist at H&G Machine and Tool Co., a military subcontractor.

Bhoge said that, although Zakharov had previously asked for classified documents, on the day of the arrest he had not warned Zakharov that he was planning to bring classified material. Zakharov grew suspicious, he said, and refused to pick up the documents in Bhoge's car, agreeing to meet him later at a subway station.

Afterward, when the FBI refused to pay him more than the \$20,000 he had earned, Bhoge said he contacted Ackerman, who said in an interview that he met with Bhoge Oct. 28 and helped to expedite his citizenship application, after it had been delayed by the FBI.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leakh Bhoge says he fantasized about becoming a James Bond-type spy.

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Ortega, in N.Y., Defends State of Emergency

By Margot Hornblower
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NEW YORK, Oct. 20—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, defending last week's imposition of sweeping restrictions on civil rights, said today that they were necessary to prevent "terrorism, sabotage and assassination attempts" by opponents of the Sandinista government.

Ortega, in New York for the 40th anniversary session of the United Nations, said in an interview that the government also had to crack down on the press and on activism by Roman Catholic priests to prevent "propaganda" against the draft at a time when many Nicaraguan soldiers are winding up their two-year hitch and new recruits are preparing to enlist.

Outside his plush suite at the United Nations Plaza Hotel, security was tight. But Ortega appeared relaxed, joking about a morning jog in Central Park. He is to address the General Assembly Monday.

To repair what he acknowledged was a "public relations" problem in the wake of the new restrictions on civil liberties, Ortega has planned meetings with dozens of heads of state and other foreign officials as well as a television appearance on "The Phil Donahue Show."

The extension of a state of emergency nationwide, announced last Tuesday, reinstated and broadened restrictions that had been eased during last summer's election campaign. Although it was unclear how strongly the new limits would be enforced, press censorship was reaffirmed and legal rights of freedom of speech, assembly and travel, as well as the right to form labor unions and to strike, were suspended.

The Reagan administration sharply criticized the crackdown as "a further step toward imposing a totalitarian regime on the people of Nicaragua."

Supporters of the Sandinistas here and in Europe were also critical.

Today, Ortega sought to play down the severity and scope of the measures. "We are not liquidating active labor unions," he said. "Political parties can continue to have meetings, so long as they request permission from the authorities. . . . There is not a state of siege. People can walk around where they want to and at whatever hour they want."

The new restrictions would continue, he said, until the Reagan administration reverses its goal of "trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan government."

Ortega said, "We decided to impose this state of emergency because the CIA, which is directing the mercenary forces, is now preparing a counteroffensive, relying more on the Honduran Army, and at the same time trying to attack on an internal front with terrorist activities."

He predicted that the contras, as Nicaragua refers to the rebel forces, would be held back at the border and would be unable to advance without more help from the Honduran Army or direct involvement of U.S. troops.

"We are on the verge of a strategic victory," Ortega said. "It's a question of months . . . we're not concerned about whether the contras get more or less aid. Whether they get a million guns or a hundred million dollars from the Reagan administration, we couldn't care less . . . no matter how much aid they get, it will not change things."

The government prevented the publication of a new newspaper by the Catholic Church and occupied diocesan offices recently, he said, because priests have encouraged draft dodgers who claim to be seminarians.

[The Nicaraguan Catholic Church's Episcopal Bishop's Conference released a statement in Esteli charging the state of emergency curtails "indispensable and fundamental rights," United Press International reported. Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo said mass for 5,000, a gathering that was considered a test of the new restrictions.]

Ortega compared the emergency decree to the U.S. incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. "We are talking about exceptional measures, wartime measures," he said.

Ortega said that the economy had been critically injured by the U.S. trade embargo but that new avenues of commerce were opening up. New sources of agricultural and industrial technology were being explored in Western and Eastern Europe to replace U.S. parts and equipment, he said.